

WASHINGTON, D.C – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) celebrated the 35th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act with a statement recognizing the role this legislation has had in reducing pollution in America's waterways, including the Chesapeake Bay. The U.S. House unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday, October 16, recognizing the anniversary.

“Thirty-five years ago, our Nation codified an enhanced commitment to protecting and improving the quality of water in our lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries and wetlands by enacting the Clean Water Act. The 1972 legislation spelled out ambitious programs for water quality improvement that have since been expanded and are implemented today by industries and municipalities across the country.

“Why is this law important? Clean water is a natural resource of tremendous value to the Nation, essential to protect public health, wildlife, and waterways; to guarantee abundant opportunities for public recreation and economic development; and to ensure an optimized quality of life. In Southern Maryland, where we are surrounded by water, it is a law of great significance.

“Since the enactment of the Clean Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency has provided wastewater assistance to states and local governments; helped significantly increase the access to safe drinking water; and prevented the discharge of approximately 700 billion pounds of pollutants per year.

“This week, the U.S. House unanimously approved a resolution recognizing the 35th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. The resolution celebrates the progress made since the passage of the landmark legislation, yet acknowledges the critical water quality challenges that persist today.

“Clean, safe water is absolutely indispensable to the good health of all Americans - as well as our way of life and our continued prosperity. On the 35th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, let us recommit ourselves to upholding the intent of this landmark legislation, and rededicate our efforts to helping cities and communities keep our water clean and safe today and for future generations.”

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